

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 /094 W

----- 003987

R 161404Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2637

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, ZA

SUBJECT: KAUNDA SPEECH ON RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN ADDRESS JAN 16 OPENING THIRD SESSION
OF CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ATTENDED BY ALL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT
LEADERS, MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND HUNDREDS OF INVITED
GUESTS, PRESIDENT KAUNDA NOTED THAT ANGOLAN ISSUE DIRECTLY AFFECTS
ZAMBIA WHICH CANNOT AFFORD ABSENCE OF PEACE IN SURROUNDING
COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED POINT MADE IN HIS ADDRESS TO
OAU EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT LAST WEEK THAT OAU DISUNITY ON ANGOLAN
ISSUE "AUTOMATICALLY" HANDS OVER TO FOREIGN POWERS (UNSPECIFIED)
ABILITY TO MEDDLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. "UNITY IS POWER," PRESIDENT
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SAID, ADDING THAT AFRICANS MUST NOT CONTINUE TREND OF ALIGNING

THEMSELVES WITH ONE OF THE SUPERPOWERS. PRESIDENT DID NOT FURTHER DISCUSS ANGOLAN ISSUE OR OUTLINE ZAMBIAN POLICY TOWARD THIS OR ANY OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION.

2. REMAINDER OF PRESIDENT'S 50-MINUTE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO EXHORTATION TO WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY IN COPING WITH URGENT DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS. PRESIDENT OFFERED LITTLE NEW IN WAY OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, RATHER APPEALED FOR NATIONWIDE SUPPORT FOR BASIC POLICY REORIENTATION TO INCREASE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND EXPORT, ESPECIALLY OF CASH CROPS LIKE COTTON, SUGAR, AND OIL SEEDS; MORE STRESS ON DISCIPLINE, PRODUCTIVITY AMONG WORKERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS; AND NEED TO MOBILIZE PEOPLE TO DEVELOP AND CONSERVE WATER RESOURCES THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR BUILDING DAMS AND IRRIGATION CANALS (A THEME TO WHICH KAUNDA WEDDED FOLLOWING LAST CHINA TRIP). PRESIDENT DEPLORED WASTAGE OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS AND CALLED FOR END TO CARELESSNESS AND NEGLECT IN MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY. HE SPECIFICALLY DEMANDED END TO BAD TREATMENT OF TRAVELING PUBLIC BY BUS CONDUCTORS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: IMPORTANT THEME THROUGHOUT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS NEED FOR ZAMBIANS, IN FACE OF CRITICAL SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY ANGOLAN CONFLICT, TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL UNITY, DISCIPLINE, AND WORK FOR GREATER ECONOMIC STRENGTH. WITHOUT SAYING SO, PRESIDENT APPEARED BE MAKING APPEAL TO PEOPLE TO TRUST HIM AND SUPPORT HIS POLICY ON ANGOLA, AVOIDING ACTIONS (SUCH AS YESTERDAY'S PRO-MPLA STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN LUSAKA) THAT RISK BRINGING DISHARMONY AND CONFLICT INTO ZAMBIA'S "HAVEN OF PEACE" IN OTHERWISE TROUBLED REGION.

4. COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS ADDRESSES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENINGS, USUALLY REGARDED AS OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJOR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS, THIS YEAR'S SPEECH WAS NOT ONLY HALF THE LENGTH, BUT FLAT, UNEVENTFUL, AND REplete WITH ALL-TO-FAMILIAR KAUNDAISMS ON TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, WORKING HARDER, AND BECOMING SELF RELIANT. PRESIDENT SEEMED SOMEWHAT WEARY AND SHOWING EFFECTS OF STRAIN HE HAS BEEN UNDER IN TRYING TO FIND PEACEFUL, AFRICAN SOLUTION TO ANGOLAN WAR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILKOWSKI

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